

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-9 and 11-15 are pending. Claims 12 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sharpe (US 7,007,237 A1). Claims 1-9, 11, 14 and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smether (US 6,463,304) in view of Sharpe (US 7,007,237 A1). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections.

Claims 12 and 13 Are Not Anticipated

In response to the rejections of Claims 12 and 13, Applicants state that the invention relates to a browser suitable for a mobile telecommunication device. The operation of one of the soft keys of the device actuates a function to access previously visited pages. By operating the key with a short press, the first mode of the individual key is actuated and the browser displays the last visited page. By operating the key with a long press, the second mode of the individual key is actuated, and the browser displays a list of previously visited pages such that the user can select the desired page and navigate directly thereto.

Sharpe discloses a browser that allows a webpage corresponding to a selected link in a displayed webpage to be loaded in a cache and not be displayed until the user specifically instructs the browser to do so. The loaded (but not displayed) webpage is included as a new entry in a list of cached pages. The loaded webpage can be displayed by pressing the "forward button" when the user wishes to view the new webpage. Sharpe describes that the browser also stores recently viewed web pages in cache. If a link is selected and the document corresponding to that link is already stored in the cache, the browser displays the web page without requesting it from the web server. If the particular page needs to be updated, the cached page is displayed while a connection to the web server is established and the web page processed, updated and displayed. The reference does not disclose a "display of previously visited homepages" as set forth in Claims 12 and 13.

Further, even if Sharpe can be read to disclose the display of previously visited homepages, the reference does not disclose or suggest “operating an individual key of the device in a first mode to navigate between previously visited pages, operating the individual key in a second mode to provide a display of previously visited homepages.” Because the reference does not disclose an individual key with a “first mode to navigate between previously visited pages” and a “second mode to provide a display of previously visited homepages,” Claims 12 and 13 are not anticipated by Sharpe.

Claims 1-9, 11, 14 and 15 Are Not Obvious

In response to the rejections of Claim 1, Applicants again state that the invention relates to a browser suitable for a mobile telecommunication device. The operation of one of the soft keys of the device actuates a function to access previously visited pages. By operating the key with a short press, the first mode of the individual key is actuated and the browser displays the last visited page. By operating the key with a long press, the second mode of the individual key is actuated, and the browser displays a list of previously visited pages such that the user can select the desired page and navigate directly thereto.

Smethers discloses a mobile communication device with a graphical user interface. Different applications resident on the device (the launch screens of which appears to be considered by the Examiner to map onto the previously visited pages of claim 1) can be navigated to by using a navigation key to select an icon from a list of icons on a main start screen. The main start screen, listing the applications (which appears to be considered by the Examiner to map onto the display of previously visited pages of claim 1) can be displayed at any time by pressing a special key, the “Rocker Key.”

In the January 8, 2007 Office Action, the Examiner admits that Smethers does not disclose the feature of claim 1 of an individual key “operable in a first mode comprising a first user depression sequence pattern of said individual key to navigate between previously visited pages and said individual key further being operable in a second mode comprising a second user depression sequence pattern of said individual key to provide a

display of previously visited pages whereby to permit the user to select a page from the display of previously visited pages.” To support the rejection, the Examiner argues that this feature is obvious over Sharpe, asserting that Sharpe teaches an individual key operable in a first mode and first depression sequence and a second mode and second depression sequence, to provide a display of previous visited pages by pressing one single key.

Applicants disagree that the feature of claim 1 of an individual key operable in a first mode and second mode is obvious in view of the disclosure of Sharpe. As noted above, Sharpe discloses a browser that allows a webpage corresponding to a selected link in a displayed webpage to be loaded in a cache and not be displayed until the user specifically instructs the browser to do so. The loaded webpage can be displayed by pressing the “forward button” when the user wishes to view the new webpage. Sharpe does not disclose the operation of a single key to display the list of cached pages. The reference does not teach the operation of a single key “operable in a first mode comprising a first user depression sequence pattern of said individual key to navigate between previously visited pages” and “second mode comprising a second user depression sequence pattern of said individual key to provide a display of previously visited pages whereby to permit the user to select a page from the display of previously visited pages” as required by the invention.

Starting from the disclosure of Smethers, if a skilled person wanted to modify the system of Smethers to result in a browser that falls into the scope of claim 1, it is required that the same key be used to navigate to a previously visited page and to display a list of previously visited pages. Such a modification could include modifying the Rocker Key of Smethers, to include navigation to a previously visited page. The Rocker Key is already used to trigger the display of the main start screen. Therefore, such a modification would not lead to a functioning system. If the Rocker Key is used to implement both functions, the browser could not distinguish between which function the user desires because nowhere in Sharpe or Smethers is there a suggestion for how to distinguish between different functions implemented using the same key. For example, if a user is in the browser mode of operation in the system of Smethers and the Rocker Key

is pressed, the control software of the user interface would not know whether the user meant to go to the main start page (display of previously visited pages) or to another webpage (previously visited page) as taught by Sharpe. Modifying Smethers in view of Sharpe to use the same key to provide both functionalities required by claim 1 would result in a non-functioning system. Therefore, a skilled person would not make the modification.

The reason the system according to the invention works is that different depression sequence patterns of the key are used to indicate which function is desired by the user. This feature is not disclosed in either Smethers or Sharpe. The subject matter of claim 1 is not obvious in view of a combination of Smethers and Sharpe.

Additional Basis For Allowance

In addition to the reason noted above, dependant Claim 4 is allowable for at least one additional reason. Dependent Claim 4 recites the feature of "the first and second modes are selected by operating said individual key for relatively shorter and longer periods respectively." Nowhere in Smethers or Sharpe is there any disclosure that could be interpreted to anticipated the feature of claim 4 of selecting the first and the second modes by "operating said individual key for relatively shorter and longer periods respectively." The portion of Smethers referenced by the Examiner as disclosing the feature of claim 4 provides a description of the location of icons in a circle by referring to the position of hands of a clock at different times. Applicant cannot see how the Examiner can construe this disclosure as anticipating the feature of selecting the first and the second modes by operating said individual key for relatively shorter and longer periods respectively.

Conclusion

Therefore, for at least the above reasons, Claims 12 and 13 are not anticipated and are allowable over Sharpe, and Claim 1 is not obvious and is allowable over the combination of Smethers and Sharpe. Dependant Claims 2-9, 11, 14 and 15 are

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allowable for at least the same reasons as the independent Claims 1, 12 and 13, from which they ultimately depend.

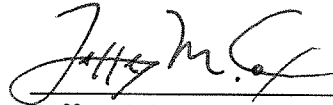
For these reasons, allowance is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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By:

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Jeffrey M. Cox', is written over a horizontal line.

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